

## INTEREST CENTERS IN BALKAN ARENA

Other Fields Overshadowed by  
Political and Military De-  
velopments There.

## AIM OF ENTENTE ALLIES TO CUT OFF RAILROADS

Strength of Formidable Army at  
Saloniki Not Yet Exerted on  
the Wings.

LONDON, August 23.—Political  
developments in the Balkans  
overshadow in interest for the  
moment even the important mili-  
tary operations in progress there,  
but today's dispatches throw lit-  
tle new light on the situation  
from either a political or military  
standpoint.

## Army a Formidable One.

With Russian and Italian troops  
added to the French, British and  
Serbian forces already in the field,  
the allies have a formidable array  
of fighting men on the Macedonian front.  
So far, however, its strength has not  
been exerted to marked effect.  
The Bulgarians have pushed back  
both wings and it is only in the center,  
in the Vardar valley, that entente ad-  
vances have been scored. It seems not  
improbable that this region, which of-  
fers superior railroad facilities because  
of the line running through it from  
Saloniki to Uskup, has been selected  
as the main avenue along which the  
entente thrust is to be made.

## Checked by British Artillery.

British artillery has checked the ad-  
vance of skirmishers of the central  
powers in a sector of the Struma  
front, thirty-five miles northeast of  
Saloniki, says a war office statement  
on operations in the Balkans. Working  
parties intrenching opposite Kamenar  
and Cavdarmar, on the same front, also  
were dispersed by British artillery,  
the statement adds.  
An official statement issued last night  
in Paris says the allies have captured  
a series of heights west of the Vardar  
river, on the Saloniki front. On both  
wings advance detachments have fallen  
back before the counter offensive of the  
Bulgarians.

## Berlin Reports Bulgar Advance.

A Berlin dispatch says that advices  
received there from the Balkans indi-  
cate that the Germans and Bulgarians  
are advancing on the entire Mace-  
donian front.

There are no indications as to the  
objective of the Bulgarians on the  
eastern end of the fighting line, says  
the dispatch, but the opinion is held  
that Gen. Sarraff's right flank may  
soon be hard pressed. An immediate  
result of the Bulgarian offensive is  
that the central powers are once more  
in direct contact with Greece.

## Guarantees for Greece.

According to a dispatch from Athens,  
dated yesterday, Germany and Bulgaria  
have given a written undertaking to  
Greece that their troops will not enter  
Kavala, Drama and Seres.

## Rumania Remains Undecided.

as to Participation in War.  
According to Berlin Report

BERLIN, August 23, by wireless to  
Saville.—Rumania has not decided  
whether she will enter the war, in the  
opinion of a person characterized by  
the Overseas News Agency as "a dis-  
tinguished diplomatist who is especial-  
ly conversant with Rumanian af-  
fairs." On being asked by the news  
agency as to the present situation, he  
said:  
"Rumania's attitude is due to her  
geographical situation. The country  
is virtually surrounded by belligerents.  
Rumanian statesmen, therefore, are  
guided by the desire to spare their  
country the injury which would be un-  
avoidable if it were to become a the-  
ater of war."

## Entente Powers Active.

"Since the beginning of the present  
conflict the entente powers, particu-  
larly Russia, have been extremely ac-  
tive in Rumania. The country is flooded  
with Russian agents and spies of all de-  
scriptions. The entente uses money lavishly  
to bribe politicians and influence the press.  
This agitation reached its height at the  
beginning of the last Russian offensive.  
At the same time the entente announced  
that an offensive would be inaugu-  
rated on the Macedonian front—no  
more purely for political purposes. Now  
vague has brought a quick change in the  
situation and the Russian offensive also  
appears to be slackening."

## Awaits Decisive Turn.

"At present Rumania is still undecided.  
She probably will not give up her adroit  
policy of neutrality, which up to the pre-  
sent time has given her an enormous gain  
in power, unless he believes that the  
really decisive turn in the war has been  
reached. Meanwhile trade relations be-  
tween Rumania and the central powers  
continue to be normal and active."  
"Rumania has been a sphinx and is still  
shrouded in a mysterious veil, behind  
which political passion and agitation not  
only of the Rumanians, but of the entente  
agents, reach their highest pitch."

## "Gay" Bucharest Now Grave; as People Prepare for War; King Sees Teutonic Envoys

LONDON, August 23.—The King of  
Rumania received the German and

Austrian ministers to Bucharest in pri-  
vate audience Monday, according to a  
Cologne dispatch to the Exchange Tele-  
graph Company by way of Amsterdam.  
The ministers were received separately  
and afterward jointly. It was the  
longest audience ever granted by the  
Rumanian king to the Teutonic repre-  
sentatives.

## Rumania Preparing for War.

AMSTERDAM, via London, August  
23.—Rumania is preparing for war, ac-  
cording to Dr. Lederer, Bucharest cor-  
respondent of the Berliner Tageblatt.  
A telegraphic dispatch from Dr. Le-  
derer, dated Sunday, says:  
"There is ground for some uneasiness  
as to the attitude of Rumania. The  
country is in a state of great excite-  
ment. Gay Bucharest has become a  
grave city and all like signs in public  
life indicate that everybody is prepar-  
ing for eventualities and that the coun-  
try is getting ready for war."  
"I still believe that Bratianu is play-  
ing a game with Russia." "In polit-  
ical negotiations at Bucharest von  
Hindenburg is now playing the fore-  
most role."

## Counted on His Prestige.

The appointment of Field Marshal  
von Hindenburg to the supreme com-  
mand on the eastern front was inter-  
preted in allied circles as having a po-  
litical as well as a military signifi-  
cance. It was said that Germany be-  
lieved the prestige of von Hindenburg's  
name would favorably impress Ru-  
mania.

## NO OVERTURES FOR PEACE MADE BY GREAT BRITAIN

## Positive Statement in Parliament by Lord Robert Cecil, War Trade Minister.

LONDON, August 23, 4:55 p.m.—No  
peace overtures have been made to  
Great Britain, declared Lord Robert  
Cecil, minister of war trade and parlia-  
mentary undersecretary for foreign  
affairs, in the house of commons today.  
Lord Robert's statement was made  
in response to a question by Sir James  
Henry Daisley, liberal member for  
Kirkcaldy Burghs, in regard to "peace  
rumors."

## No overtures have been made for peace could be made, and that is from only one way in which overtures for peace could be made, and that is from an enemy to the government of this country. If any such overtures were made the first thing we should do would be to reject them. We have no communication of the kind has been made."

## ONE DEAD, SEVERAL DYING, DUE TO FALL OF BUILDING

NEW YORK, August 23.—Six men are  
missing, one is dead and several are dy-  
ing in hospitals and a dozen others were  
injured today as the result of the sud-  
den collapse of a five-story brick tenement  
in course of construction in the Bronx.

## A score of workmen were in the building and more than half this num- ber, at work in the front part, were caught in the debris. City building offi- cials inspected the ruins and charged that the masonry in the walls was of an inferior quality.

## SEVERAL ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE, INCLUDING A MEMBER OF THE CON- STRUCTION COMPANY, WHO IS CHARGED WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE BUILDING.

## SENATE PASSES ARMY BILL.

## Revised Measure Goes Back to the House for Action.

The army appropriation bill with re-  
vised articles of war approved by the  
War Department was passed today by  
the Senate and now goes back to the  
House, where the amendment is expected  
to be accepted.

## President Wilson vetoed the bill be- cause the revision on the bill's previous passage gave exemptions to retired offi- cers, which the War Department disap- proved.

## WARNED TO OBSERVE CARE.

## Postal Employees Held Accountable for Damage to Mail Packages.

Special warnings to all employees of  
the postal service who take part in the  
handling of parcel post packages to  
exercise all possible care in the han-  
dling of such mail have been issued by  
the Postmaster General. All are warned  
that they will be held to strict ac-  
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## By a singular coincidence, Walter H. Page, United States ambassador to Great Britain, also is in this city at present on leave of absence, but Sec- retary Lansing says there is no sig- nificance in the presence of the two ambassadors at the same time.

## ARMOR PLANT HEARINGS.

## Secretary Daniels to Receive Site and Sale Proposals.

Consideration of proposals from vari-  
ous sites, including Washington, sug-  
gesting sites for the eleven-million-  
dollar government armor plant, will be  
heard by Secretary Daniels September  
13, together with such offers as private  
manufacturers may submit for the sale  
of their establishments to the govern-  
ment.

## On that date members of the general board and Rear Admiral Strauss, chief of ordnance, will be present to hear claims of the cities which have asked for the plant. A written brief, have consideration of the general board, which under the new law finally approve the site selected by the Secretary of the Navy, must be filed in each case.

## GERMANS ASSAULT ALLIES ON SOMME

Regain Footing in Trenches  
South of Estrees They Lost  
August 21.

## PIERCE THIEPVAL LINES; DRIVEN OUT BY BRITISH

Intense Artillery Preparation Pre-  
cedes Attacks by Infantry in  
Northern France.

PARIS, August 23, noon.—Ger-  
man troops attacking the French  
lines south of Estrees, on the  
Somme front, gained a footing at  
some points in trenches that had  
been captured by the French on  
August 21, the war office an-  
nounced today.

The attack in the Estrees region  
south of the Somme was launched  
after a period of intense artillery  
preparation.

## North of the Somme the Ger- mans violently bombarded the French first line.

## Artillery Action Heavy.

The announcement follows:  
"North of the Somme the enemy dur-  
ing the night bombarded our first lines  
and our lines of communication to the  
north and south of Maurepas. Our ar-  
tillery replied energetically. The enemy  
did not follow up his bombardment with  
infantry action."

## "South of the Somme, after intense artillery preparation, the Germans to- ward the end of the day made an attack south of Estrees and west of Soyecourt, on the trenches which we captured Au- gust 21. He gained a footing at some points. There was a fairly active ar- tillery duel in the sectors of Bellou, Asselliers and Lihons."

## "In the Vosges we repulsed by means of grenades a surprise attack against one of our trenches south of Hartmanns- weilerkopf."

## "The night was relatively calm on the remainder of the front."

"On the Somme front Warrant Officer  
Dorem brought down his fifth German  
aeroplane, which fell in the direction of  
Moissons, northeast of Peronne. Four  
other enemy aircraft, fired on by ma-  
chine guns from our aeroplanes, came  
down within their own lines, severely  
damaged."

## British Lines Heavily Assaulted.

LONDON, August 23, 3:02 p.m.—Two  
heavy assaults on the positions newly  
won by the British south of Thiepval,  
on the Somme front, were made last  
night by the Germans. They gained a  
footing in the British trenches, but  
were driven out again, the war office  
announced today.

## The announcement follows: "The enemy made two determined counter attacks last night on our new trenches south of Thiepval. By the first attack he gained a temporary foot- ing in the trenches, but was driven out immediately. The second attack was repulsed completely. The enemy's losses in these two attempts were heavy."

## "Last night there was rather more hostile artillery fire, especially in the direction of High wood and Bazentin- Le-Petit."

## "Opposite Lens we carried out a successful thrust at the enemy's trenches. The British front there was the usual trench warfare."

## ITALIANS DELIVER BLOW IN THE ALPINE REGION

## Rome Reports Strong and Successful Thrust on Northern Extremity of Front.

ROME, August 23, via London, 2:30  
p.m.—The Italians are making a strong  
and successful thrust at the Austrian  
lines in the Alpine region on the extreme  
northern front, according to today's war  
office announcement. Italian troops have  
carried strong Austrian positions in the  
Tofana area, in the Dolomites and in  
the Travençolas valley.

## The announcement follows: "In the Astico valley, on the night of August 22, the enemy shelled our posi- tions at the bottom of the valley with great intensity, but did not develop any offensive attack. On the same night an attempt of the enemy to advance be- tween Casera Zingarella and Casera Zebio Pastorello, on the Asiago plateau, was checked by our fire."

## "In the Tofana area yesterday, after effective artillery preparation, detach- ments of our Alpine troops and infantry carried strong enemy positions on the Tofana area, in the Dolomites and in the Travençolas valley. The enemy suffered heavy loss and left about forty prisoners in our hands."

## "In the Goria area artillery fighting is in progress. An enemy detachment which attempted to approach Verolobizza stream yesterday afternoon was repulsed by our fire and left numerous dead on the ground."

## Lieut. L. H. Barlow Killed in France.

PHILADELPHIA, August 23.—Lieut.  
Lovel Hardwick Barlow, son of Mrs. R. H.  
Barlow, the widely known golf  
player, was killed August 14, while  
fighting with the British army in France,  
according to advices received here. He  
left more than a year ago.

## DAY IN CONGRESS.

## Senate:

Met at 11 a.m.  
Repassed army appropriation  
bill which had been vetoed by  
President. Reconsidering articles of  
war, objectionable amend-  
ments eliminated.

## House:

Not in session; meets Friday.



## NIAGARA TORRENT OF SHELLS CLEARS A WAY FOR INFANTRY

Capture by British of German Trenches on  
Somme Front Conducted With  
Machine-like Precision.

## WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, August 23, via London, Au- gust 23.—The artillery commander drew his patent curtain of fire and never in all the seven weeks of the Somme battle has the correspondent witnessed anything equal to the "show," as the officers call every action, in the taking of one of the spurs of Thiepval ridge yesterday afternoon.

Ever since July 1, when the British  
failed in their effort to storm it, Thie-  
pval ridge has glared at the British,  
who had kept hammering it with gun-  
fire. The Germans seemed to set the  
same store by it as they did by the  
heights of Ginchy and Guillemont, on  
the other bank.

## In front of the position conquered yesterday the British infantry had been decimated by machine gun fire July 1. The trenches were just as strong as then with deep dugouts, the result of two years' building.

## Believe Ridge Secure.

Prisoners taken early in the of-  
fensive said the British never could  
obtain a foothold on that ridge. Those  
taken yesterday who had been at Ypres  
said they suffered nothing there at  
all equivalent to the deluge of British  
shells, and that it was impossible for  
human beings to endure such torna-  
does.

## On a thousand-yard front both the first German line and the support trench were taken. One pair of eyes could not see more detail than the correspondent saw yesterday. The British and Germans en- gaged were outlined as clearly as a play around the second base could be seen from a grandstand. A home company of the National Guard doing skirmish drill in camp could not be more distinct when seen from the side line. It was the very finest of war.

## With clear air and a bright afternoon sun over his shoulder, one looked across the tiny valley toward a slope. There the bare ground was cut with the slash of a new British trench, and beyond that, across an area of dead grass and wheat, was the old first-line German trench.

## Niagara Rush of Shells.

A Niagara rush of whistling screams  
from capsules of concentrated hell tore  
through the air and began bursting over  
it. Their flashes hugged it in an infernal  
continuity, sweeping it with myriads of bul-  
lets and fragments, shooting forked  
tongues of death into its burrows. To  
show a head and escape being hit, and hit  
more than once, was as hopeless as to  
stand up in a thick hailstorm without  
being hit with a icy pellet. Some Germans  
who had trusted in flight rather than  
sticking to a dug-out when the first dash  
of projectiles came were seen running  
toward the open, away from this swath  
of destruction.

## Now out of the British trench ap- peared a row of khaki-tinted mush- rooms, the steel helmets of British soldiers were, then their heads and shoulders and full forms as the charge went over the parapet. Every man was

## in full equipment with all its details visible. Every figure uniform with all others to the eye as they moved across the field of dead grass briskly and steadily. No ominous, wicked stac- cato of German machine guns coming into action was heard. No machine gun- ner could live at his post in that trench.

## Shells All Fall True.

The British line opened to go around  
shell craters or other obstacles and  
then closed up. Occasionally a figure  
dropped and was lost in the grass.  
Right into the face of that curtain of  
death from shells going only a few  
feet over their heads they were mov-  
ing. Then suddenly as it was laid the  
curtain of shell fire lifted. Not a single  
shell out of the thousands had burst  
short.

## Now the British were going over the German parapet, their bayonets glis- tening in the sun. As they descended into the trench the earth seemed to have swallowed them up. Little clouds of smoke from burning bombs be- hind them, and much to the surprise of everybody, especially Representative Rainey, the Green motion carried by 136 to 93. There was no chance of a record vote.

## Says Republicans Did It.

"Republican votes did it," Representa-  
tive Rainey said today, "and I cannot  
for the life of me see why they did so."

## Under the Payne tariff Congress cre- ated a board of customs appraisers, the members of which receive \$9,000 a year, and the proposed tariff commission would be a superior body to that board. The federal reserve board members get \$2,000 each, the federal trade commis- sioners get \$10,000 and the rural credits commissioners get \$10,000. There is no reason why the members of the tariff commission should not receive \$10,000."

## The House passed the bill with the \$7,500 salaries instead of \$10,000, and the Senate now has the bill before it, with the salaries at the lower figure.

## ADVISORY BOARD TO RULE.

## Northwestern University to Do With- out President, Working Under Deans

CHICAGO, August 23.—Northwestern  
University will not appoint a presi-  
dent to succeed Dr. A. W. Harris, who  
resigned last June, according to an an-  
nouncement made public today by the  
trustees.

## The administration of the university will be placed in the hands of a com- mittee of deans appointed by the trust- ees.

"The experience of large universities,"  
said James Patten, one of the trust-  
ees, "has been that there is too much  
jealousy between the departments and  
schools. One dean does not know  
what another will ask or get, and the  
entire school does not pull smoothly  
together. Our plan is designed to  
eliminate this. We shall try it for at  
least a year and more likely two."

## Plattsburg Officers in Reserve.

PLATTSBURG, N. Y., August 23.—One  
of the first steps toward organizing an  
officers' reserve corps of the United  
States army, under the provisions of  
the new army bill, will be taken here  
at the end of the present training camp  
for civilians. Copies of the army order  
giving the plan of organization have  
been received, and arrangements are  
being made for the examination, which  
several hundred Plattsburg graduates  
are expected to take.

## Mr. Carnegie Is "Very Well."

BAR HARBOR, Me., August 23.—An-  
drew Carnegie, who has returned from  
a fishing trip, caused word to be  
given to inquirers that he was "very  
well." His secretary, in discussing re-  
ports that the millionaire philan-  
thropist was ill, asserted that, on the  
contrary, he was enjoying "very good  
health." Mr. Carnegie will leave to-  
morrow on his yacht for a cruise along  
the coast to Nova Scotia.

## TARIFF BOARD PAY TOO SMALL, HE SAYS

Representative Rainey Thinks  
the Members Should Re-  
ceive \$10,000 Each.

## "The men who will form the tariff commission, about to be created, ought to re- ceive \$10,000 a year, and not \$7,500," said Representative Rainey of Illinois today.

Representative Rainey, author of the  
tariff commission section of a revenue  
bill which has passed the House and is  
now before the Senate, expressed himself  
today as disgusted with the manner in  
which the republican votes cut down the  
salaries of the proposed commission when  
the bill was in the House. Acting accord-  
ing to precedent, he said, the ways and  
means committee placed the salaries of  
the tariff commission members at \$10,000  
each. When the bill was up in the House  
Representative Green of Iowa moved to  
cut this figure to \$7,500.

## Question of Salary Debated.

It was late in the afternoon of July 10,  
and the House displayed an overweening  
desire to quit and go home.

Representative Green spoke for less than  
a minute. Representative Rainey an-  
swered about a hundred words, explain-  
ing that the ways and means committee  
had gone over the matter carefully and  
that the best grade of experts could not  
be obtained for \$7,500 a year. Representa-  
tive Cullip of Indiana, a democrat,  
who generally follows the action of demo-  
cratic committees, made a long speech,  
however, in favor of the republican mo-  
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## SILENT VOTE HOLDS BALANCE OF POWER

260,000 in California Have  
Refrained From Declaring  
Party Affiliation.

## REPUBLICANS CLAIM SUPPORT OF MAJORITY

Democrats Believe, However, That  
National Policies, Kindred to  
Those of State, Will Win.

## BY N. O. MESSENGER.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 23.

—When the voters of this state  
registered for the nominating  
primaries, to be held August 29,  
about 260,000 of them refrained  
from declaring their party affilia-  
tion. Exercise of this option on  
non-declaration puts them in po-  
sition to vote at the polls in Novem-  
ber for democratic or republican  
candidates, as they see fit.

The number was 308,000 at the out-  
set, but the frantic appeals of party  
managers induced about 40,000 to sign  
up.

This great non-declared vote, repre-  
senting the independent, silent, thought-  
ful political sentiment of the state, is  
sufficient to hold the balance of power  
between the two parties. It hangs  
heavy over the head of the party  
leaders.

## Who Is to Get This Vote.

Who is to get it? The republicans  
claim that four-fifths of the non-de-  
clared vote is republican. The demo-  
crats base most of their hope of vic-  
tory upon the assumption that the  
figures represent men who are wed to  
no party, bound to no candidate per se,  
and on the assumption that the  
candidate and party whose principles  
and acts more nearly meet their views  
and demands.

Until the primaries are held and the  
fight over the United States senator-  
ship, or rather the fight against Hiram  
Johnson, enters upon its second and  
crucial stage, it would be folly